REMARKS

In the parent application (Serial No. **09/360,057**, Filing Date of **July 23, 1999**) to this continuation application, there was a restriction requirement wherein Inventions I and III were withdrawn from consideration. This continuation application now includes claims drawn to Invention I, namely, the claims are directed to dynamic configuring, which claims, as the Examiner stated in the parent application, are classified in class 709, subclass 220.

The Examiner cited the references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement of this continuation application in the parent application. The claims of the continuation application were drafted to avoid either novelty or obviousness rejections based upon the references, taken singly or in combination.

The Applicant believes that an up-front distinguishing of the differences between the claims and the cited references, taken singly or in combination, will facilitate allowance of the claims upon initial examination.

In particular, the references (singly or in combination) do not teach or suggest the following methodology (see claim 1, which is now paraphrased with underlines for emphasis):

(1) a <u>temporary</u>, occasion-specific configuration on a computer network arranged for a specific <u>social occasion</u> for servicing a dynamically formed group of participants;

(2) provisioning a set of services on the computer network available from a service provider and the configuring an application for the occasion by one of the participants for eventual use by all of the participants wherein <u>the one of the participants selects which services form the application</u>;

(3) executing the application to interconnect and coordinate the interactions of the participants <u>with each other</u> for the occasion; and

(4) capturing <u>all</u> of the interactions of the participants throughout the duration of the occasion in a <u>thread-of-activity file</u> for later recall by at least one of the participants.

Note that the references may teach the creation of an application for use by participants, but the creation is effected by the service provider and merely presented to the participants without allowing the participants any choice as to the services to compile the application. On the other hand, the claims recite that the application is <u>user-created</u> for a specific social occasion of a temporary duration.

Moreover, all of the interactions are captured for later recall in a thread-of-activity file as recited in the claim, rather than just a "snapshot" at the completion of the interactions as in the references (this snapshot is referred to in some of the references as saving the "history"). A thread-of-activity file allows for the review of the interactions to
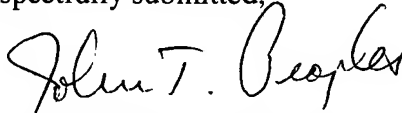
reconstruct the events occurring during the social occasion. To draw an analogy, suppose a document is being edited on-line -- a <u>history</u> file saves the final edited document, whereas a <u>thread-of-activity</u> file saves all of the edit steps (additions, deletions, other modifications) so that the original document and all intermediate steps leading to the final edited document can be reconstructed if required.

Moreover, other aspects of the methodology, which are captured in other independent and/or dependent claims include:

(i)   on-line form-based creation of the application by one of the participants

(ii)   credit card charging services

(iii) interface to stores with credit card charging services

(iv)   teleconferencing service to link at least two of the participants in a teleconference call pertinent to the special occasion

(v)   automatic self-activation of the application at a specified later time with reference to the thread-of-activity file.

Respectfully submitted,

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